

# Commissioner's UPDATE

News from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

May — June 2003



**A Message  
from  
Bradley M.  
Campbell,  
Commissioner**

Ever since the mid-1980s, when New Jersey experienced a record number of beach closings, concern for our coastal resources has generated widespread support for programs to protect our ocean waters. These programs have resulted in great improvements to beach water quality and significantly reduced beach closings. But more needs to be done.

Today, one of the greatest threats to our beaches is nonpoint source pollution, a direct result of the sprawling development which has paved over much of our state. When it rains, stormwater rushes over concrete and asphalt carrying with it a stew of pesticides, fertilizers, trash, pet waste, oil, gas and other pollutants. Much of this pollution eventually ends up in the ocean, either carried down streams into coastal waters or dumped by aging sewer systems unable to handle the volume of rain.

In January, DEP proposed new rules for managing stormwater that will change the way we build in New Jersey and prevent pollution from entering our waters as a result of stormwater runoff. They represent the latest in a long line of actions meant to protect New Jersey's environment and the economic benefit of tourism at the shore. As you enjoy the ocean waters this summer, rest assured that under Governor McGreevey's leadership, protection of the Jersey shore remains a state priority.

Have an enjoyable summer!

*Bradley M. Campbell*

## It's Beach Season at the Jersey Shore

With summer's arrival, New Jersey's 127 miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline becomes one of the nation's most desirable destinations, attracting millions of people with its white-sand beaches and wealth of recreational opportunities. The famous Jersey shore has made tourism one of the state's highest-ranking industries contributing upwards of \$16 billion to the state economy and employing hundreds of thousands of people. Every year, more and more people discover the natural beauty of New Jersey's coast and its abundant wildlife.

With so much riding on the state's ocean resources – the health of residents, visitors and the state economy — it's easy to see why good water quality is a top priority for Governor James E. McGreevey and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

### Beach water quality

The DEP's work to protect public health on New Jersey's beaches is already under way this season. Recreational beach water-quality monitoring and aerial surveillance began on May 19.

The Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program is administered by the DEP, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and local environmental health agencies. Water-quality monitoring is done routinely on Mondays and throughout the week as needed at 187 ocean monitoring stations.

The latest, most accurate beach information can be obtained by calling 1 (800) 648-SAND or by visiting [www.NJBeaches.org](http://www.NJBeaches.org).

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*On May 4, students from the Nut Swamp Elementary School in Middletown joined Governor McGreevey as he signed legislation to restrict the disposal of PCB contaminated dredge materials off the Jersey coast.  
(story above)*

## Jersey Shore...

### Stricter standards for PCBs

On May 4, Governor McGreevey took a significant step to increase protection of New Jersey's precious ocean resources by signing legislation strictly limiting the amount of cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in dredged materials transported through New Jersey waters for disposal off its coast. The legislation, Senate Bill 1969, bans the transport of all sediments with PCB concentrations exceeding 113 parts per billion that are slated for placement at any ocean site within New Jersey's waters.

New Jersey's residents can be assured that the persistent threat of unsafe levels of PCBs in dredge materials used to cap toxic areas off Sandy Hook has been laid to rest. Under Governor McGreevey's leadership, this Administration has issued important health advisories to warn the public of harmful concentrations of PCBs in fish, and it has now acted to reduce a source of that contamination. These substantive efforts should go a long way toward protecting the state's coastal waters but more must be done.

### Stormwater rules

Looming as the number-one threat to ocean water quality in New Jersey are nonpoint sources of pollution, a by-product of ill-conceived, illogical development, commonly known as sprawl. Poorly designed development paves over land and prevents rainfall from replenishing underground aquifers. These paved areas create streams of stormwater runoff that carry trash, road salts, oil and other contaminants into New Jersey's waterways. Contaminants from stormwater runoff can cause closure of beaches and shellfish beds.

To tackle this issue, the DEP has proposed two sets of rules to protect the quality and quantity of all New Jersey's water resources by reducing the adverse impact of development and requiring better management of stormwater.

The first set of rules would require new development to provide for no loss of groundwater recharge capacity, which would maintain groundwater supplies for the state's residents and businesses. Consistent with Governor McGreevey's anti-sprawl agenda, the rules promote redevelopment in New Jersey's cities and older suburbs by waiving the 100 percent recharge requirement in these areas. The rules also promote smart growth by encouraging the use of low-impact site development techniques that maintain natural vegetation and drainage.

The second set of stormwater proposals requires municipalities to develop plans to control stormwater runoff from both existing and new development. Under a federal mandate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, all 50 states are working to implement new stormwater management programs. Through local ordinances and programs, New Jersey's towns will take common-sense steps to reduce nonpoint sources of pollution. These include limiting unnecessary pesticide and fertilizer

treatments, requiring proper disposal of yard and pet wastes, and retrofitting storm sewer grates.

Taken together, the PCB ban and stormwater rules represent the latest actions in the ongoing effort to protect the environmental, recreational, aesthetic and economic benefits of the Jersey Shore as well as the health of all who swim or fish in its waters.

On behalf of Governor McGreevey and all of us at DEP, I wish you all a great summer season at the beach.



*DEP Deputy Commissioner Joanna Dunn Samson*

## DEP Welcomes New Deputy Commissioner

On April 7, DEP welcomed back Joanna Dunn Samson as our new Deputy Commissioner. Ms. Samson is an attorney with more than 20 years experience working with the public and private sectors on the development and implementation of major infrastructure and environmental projects involving public and private partnerships. Prior to her appointment as Deputy Commissioner, Ms. Samson worked with municipal redevelopment agencies and private developers on the remediation and redevelopment of brownfields and hazardous waste sites and on projects involving historic preservation.

During her previous tenure at DEP, Deputy Commissioner Samson worked with counties to identify and implement opportunities for regional solid waste systems. She also worked on the preparation of the state Solid Waste Management Plan, development of the resource recovery loan program, and the evaluation of solid waste facility financing and rates. Her extensive knowledge of environmental issues and her professional history made her an ideal appointment to the Deputy Commissioner post. Ms. Samson is excited to be working in an administration committed to restoring and preserving environmental quality in the state.

## New DEP Compliance and Enforcement Program

The DEP's Compliance and Enforcement Program has launched a new advisory system to improve communications with New Jersey's regulated community. The advisories are intended to provide advance notice to facilities that conduct operations targeted for stepped up enforcement by the state.

The new advisory system includes Enforcement Alerts, which highlight anticipated enforcement activities; Compliance Warnings, which reflect emerging patterns of non-compliance; and Compliance Updates, which emphasize incentive programs and compliance assistance. The first enforcement alert was issued to all regulated water users warning them of strict enforcement of water allocation permits.

For more information, visit the DEP's Compliance and Enforcement web site at [www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement](http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement).

## Blue Claw Crabs from the Newark Bay Region... DO NOT CATCH! DO NOT EAT!

As the summer season begins and people return to summertime activities such as fishing and crabbing, it is important to remind residents of the health risks linked to eating blue claw crabs from the Newark Bay region. These crabs are contaminated with dioxin and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The Newark Bay region runs from the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers to the Arthur Kill and Kill Van Kull.

Although a ban on catching these crabs exists, many anglers ignore the health warnings and continue to feed them to their families. Among those with the highest risk are infants and children, women who are pregnant or of childbearing age and nursing mothers.

For information on this and other advisories visit the DEP web site or call our free hotline at 1-866-DEP-KNOW.



*Hunterdon County residents celebrate Governor McGreevey's Earth Day Announcement of final C1 rules.*

## Governor Fulfills His Earth Day Commitment

On Earth Day, Governor McGreevey announced the adoption of rules providing the highest level of water quality protection for 15 waterbodies statewide.

The Governor, joined by local families and scout troops at the Oradell Reservoir in Bergen County, made good on his promise from Earth Day 2002, when he first proposed the nine reservoirs and six stream segments for Category One (C1) status. The reservoirs provide drinking water to approximately 3.5 million residents – over 40 percent of New Jersey's population.

C1 status is a scientific designation that provides waterways with protection from any activities producing a measurable change in existing water quality.

Recently, the Governor proposed five additional streams for C1 status in Hunterdon County – the Wickecheoke, Little Nishisakawick, Nishisakawick, Lockatong, and Harihokake. DEP will work with municipal leaders to identify precise locations for C1 designation.

All C1 nominations undergo a rulemaking process, affording the public an opportunity to comment on these proposals.

## Receive the Latest on New Jersey's Environmental Front by E-mail

To expand and improve communications outreach with the public, the Department of Environmental Protection has launched a new, web-based listserv that enables residents and businesses the opportunity to receive up-to-date DEP environmental news directly by e-mail.

The new e-mail service is accessible from the DEP homepage ([www.nj.gov/dep](http://www.nj.gov/dep)), and allows individuals to stay apprised of the state's latest actions to protect public health and safeguard natural resources. Participants who sign up receive the most current DEP-issued press releases and advisories.

All members of the public, local governments and businesses are encouraged to participate.

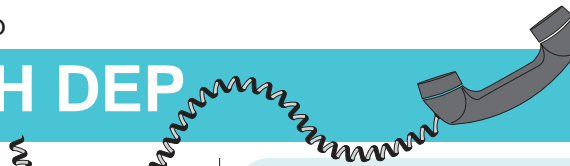


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Management & Budget  
Ronald S. Tuminski, Assistant Commissioner  
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292-3541

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Evan van Hook, Assistant Commissioner  
292-1250

Policy, Planning & Science  
Jeanne Herb, Director  
341-5311

Office of Environmental Justice  
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984-3423

General Information \_\_\_\_\_ 777-3373

For Emergency Response or to Report and Environmental Abuse:  
24-Hour Hotline \_\_\_\_\_ 1-877-WARN DEP

Adopt-A-Beach Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_ 29-BEACH  
Air Quality Index \_\_\_\_\_ 800-782-0160  
Barnegat Bay Estuary Program \_\_\_\_\_ 984-6888  
Beach Information \_\_\_\_\_ 800-648-SAND  
Brownfields Office \_\_\_\_\_ 292-1251  
Class B Recycling Centers \_\_\_\_\_ 984-6650  
Class D Universal Waste \_\_\_\_\_ 984-6650  
Delaware Estuary Program \_\_\_\_\_ 984-6888  
Environmental Claims - Spill Fund \_\_\_\_\_ 777-0101  
Environmental Education \_\_\_\_\_ 984-9802  
Forest Fires - to report during business hours \_\_\_\_\_ 292-2977  
to report on evenings and weekends \_\_\_\_\_ Dial 911  
Hazardous Waste Hotline \_\_\_\_\_ 292-8341  
Information Resource Center (Library) \_\_\_\_\_ 984-2249  
Industrial Site Evaluation \_\_\_\_\_ 777-0899  
Landfill Information \_\_\_\_\_ 984-6650  
Medical Waste \_\_\_\_\_ 984-6620  
NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program \_\_\_\_\_ 984-6888  
Open Public Records Act (OPRA) \_\_\_\_\_ 341-3121  
Parks and Forestry \_\_\_\_\_ 984-0370  
Permit Coordination \_\_\_\_\_ 292-3600  
Pesticide Information \_\_\_\_\_ 530-4070  
Pollution Prevention \_\_\_\_\_ 777-0518  
Press Inquiries \_\_\_\_\_ 984-1795  
Private Well Testing Act \_\_\_\_\_ 866-4PW-TEST  
Public Access Center \_\_\_\_\_ 777-3373  
Public Water Sampling Results \_\_\_\_\_ 292-5550  
Radon Hotline \_\_\_\_\_ 800-648-0394  
Recycling Information \_\_\_\_\_ 984-3438  
Right-to-Know State Program Information \_\_\_\_\_ 292-6714  
Safe Drinking Water \_\_\_\_\_ 292-5550  
Site Information Program \_\_\_\_\_ 800-253-5647  
Stormwater Permitting Hotline \_\_\_\_\_ 633-7021  
Underground Storage Tanks \_\_\_\_\_ 292-8761  
Water Testing \_\_\_\_\_ 292-3950  
Wildlife Information \_\_\_\_\_ 292-9450

Unless otherwise noted, all phone numbers have a 609 area code.